

REMARKS

Summary of the Office Action

Claims 1-11, 16, 18-21, 31-33, and 36-37 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(b) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,554,094 to *Viens*.

Summary of the Response to the Office Action

Applicant has amended claims 1, 16, and 33. Accordingly, claims 1-11, 16, 18-21, 31-33, and 36-37 are presently pending.

All Subject Matter Complies with 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1-11, 16, 18-21, 31-33, and 36-37 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,554,094 to *Viens*. Applicant respectfully submits that the Office Action has not established a *prima facie* case of obviousness and therefore all rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) should be withdrawn.

Viens does not teach or suggest at least “a control device that receives job information, and moves and sets components arranged along the single sheet path so that the sheet is transported through the single sheet path in accordance with the folding mode after the job information is received,” as recited in newly amended independent claims 1, 16, and 33. Accordingly, in view of the above amendments, claims 1, 16, and 33 are allowable and pending for further consideration.

As pointed out in M.P.E.P. § 2143.03, all the claimed limitations must be taught or suggested by the prior art to establish *prima facie* obviousness of a claimed invention. Because *Viens* fails to teach or suggest each feature of newly amended independent claims 1, 16, and 33,

the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) should be withdrawn. Furthermore, claims 2-11, 18-21, 31-32, and 36-37 depend from one of independent claims 1, 16, and 33. Accordingly, claims 2-11, 18-21, 31-32, and 36-37 are also allowable because of the additional features they recite and the reasons stated above.

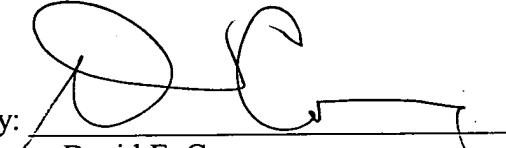
CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and the timely allowance of the pending claims. Should the Examiner feel that there are any issues outstanding after consideration of this response, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned representative to expedite prosecution.

If there are any other fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-0310. If a fee is required for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 not accounted for above, such an extension is requested and the fee should also be charged to our Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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